

**MINUTES**  
**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Meeting**  
**Helena Headquarters**  
**1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Helena, MT 59620**

**APRIL 14, 2005**

**Commission Members Present:** Tim Mulligan, Vice-Chairman; John Brenden; Shane Colton; Victor Workman.

**Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present:** Jeff Hagener, Director; FWP personnel.

**Guests:** See April, 2005 Commission file folder.

**Topics of Discussion:**

1. Opening - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of March 10, 2005 Commission Minutes
3. Approval of Commission Expenses through March 31, 2005
4. Parks Fee Rule – Final
5. Beaverhead/Big Hole Rivers Recreation Rules One-Month Extension – Final
6. Future Fisheries Special Drought Mitigation Funding Projects – Final
7. Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Commercial Fishing Regulations – Final
8. Delegation of Authority to Close Waters Affected by Drought – Final
9. Lower Flathead Fishing Access Acquisition – Informational
10. Habitat Montana Recognition Presentations
11. 2005 Moose, Sheep and Goat Quotas – Tentative
12. 2005 Lion Quotas – Tentative
13. 2006 Moose, Sheep, Deer, Elk, and Goat Auction Rules – Tentative
14. Garritty Mountain Wildlife Management Area–Jamison Land–Endorsement
15. Land Projects – Informational
16. Legislative Update
17. Viewing of “*Owning Eden*” Video
18. Public Opportunity to Address Issues Not Discussed at this Meeting

1. **Opening - Pledge of Allegiance.** Vice-Chairman Tim Mulligan called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of March 10, 2005 Commission Minutes.**

*Action: Brenden moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.*

**3. Approval of Commission Expenses through March 31, 2005.**

Action: Workman moved and Colton seconded the motion to approve the Commission expenses through March 31, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

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Director Hagener reminded the Commissioners that the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) is scheduled for July 21 – 27, 2005 in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada. July 22 and 23 feature the most commission involvement. Hagener said the Tri-State Meeting between Montana, Wyoming and Idaho is now scheduled for August 9 and 10 in either Idaho Falls or the Henry's Lake area. If anyone is interested in attending either meeting, let Reg know as soon as possible so registration and accommodations can be arranged.

Brenden expressed concern regarding the lawsuit against Arizona relative to non-resident hunting and how it affects Montana. He suggested drawing up a resolution for the Commission to adopt in an effort to allow Montana to control its own destiny. Hagener said draft language for a resolution can be written for review at the next Commission meeting. He added that a similar case has been filed against Wyoming, and Montana has received threats of a suit but has seen nothing as of yet.

**4. Parks Fee Rule – Final. Tom Reilly, FWP Parks Division Assistant Administrator,** reminded the Commissioners that the proposed tentative rules were presented at the February Commission meeting. Changes made to those tentative rules since February's meeting include the addition of Painted Rocks State Park as a "donations accepted" camp site, and the Blackfoot River Special Use Permit section will now include the ARM Rule reference, maximum group sizes per river reach, and evaluation criteria for granting permits for competitive events. The public comment period ended March 25, with only one comment relative to resident vs. non-resident fees received.

The Blackfoot River Special Use Permit pertains only to competitive events, not to private floaters, private fisherman, or small groups. This is a joint project with BLM. One proposed amendment pertains to the high water float season during May 15 – June 15. This amendment would specify that if the high-water season fluctuates, the Region 2 Supervisor could shift that season.

Mulligan questioned the \$90 / 3% annual fee assessment for commercial users, and was told this fee structure is set by BLM. He said small operators will surely be affected by this. Brenden questioned how well the Thompson Chain-of-Lakes fee assessments have been received. Reilly said it is going well, and that people seem to be settling into it.

Mulligan said he sees no language in the rules to provide assurance that large family groups would have no trouble taking a float trip if they are over the maximum group size as stated. Reilly said that will not be a problem, that there is a section in the ARM rules that covers that issue. Enforcement will be sensitive to those issues as well. Reilly said the regional staff issues the special use permits for large groups.

Workman said from his perspective, it does not appear this will accomplish anything. He said this affects only a small amount of folks using the river, and asked how many time a year there are over 30 people in a group. **Chris Lorentz and Lee Bastian, FWP Region 2 Parks Managers** replied that there are numerous occasions when this occurs. There are 65 fishing outfitters, and 12 whitewater outfitters who also utilize the river. Mulligan stated that a group of concerned citizens approached the Commission a few years ago requesting limits be placed on the river.

*Action: Workman moved and Colton seconded the motion to approve the recommended 2005 Parks Biennial Fee Rule, inclusive of the Painted Rocks State Park “donation accepted” campsite provision, and the Blackfoot River Special Use Permit amendment. Motion carried.*

**5. Beaverhead/Big Hole Rivers Recreation Rules One-Month Extension – Final. Pat Flowers, FWP Region 3 Supervisor,** said biennial rules were adopted by the Commission in 1999 and 2001 to address social conflicts on the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers in response to public concerns of overcrowding. The rules were then adopted as Administrative Rules in 2003, with language stipulating that the Commission must repeal or amend them on or before May 1, 2005, allowing the River Recreation Advisory Council sufficient time to develop final recommendations. The Commission adopted the Statewide River Recreation Rule last fall, after which a citizen’s advisory committee reviewed the Beaverhead and Big Hole River rules once again. Recommendations led to draft rules that went out for formal rulemaking. An Environmental Assessment was conducted, and public meetings were held in Bozeman, Butte, and Dillon.

The Department received 66 written comments, 361 postcards, and a petition comprised of 372 names. Ninety-nine people attended the hearings, of which 22 testified. FWP is now in the process of analyzing the comments. Due to the complexity of the issue and the number of comments received, additional time is requested to fully review and compile the information. The Department requests an amended date of June 1, 2005 as opposed to May 1, 2005 for the repeal/amend date. The recommendations will be presented to the Commission at the May 12 meeting. Mulligan concurs with the recommendation to extend the repeal/amend date for one month and postpone the final decision until the May meeting.

Robin Cunningham, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana, stated he encourages the one-month delay to allow sufficient time to perform a complete analysis.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to amend the language in the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers recreation rules that states the Commission shall repeal or amend the rules “on or before May 1, 2005” to “on or before June 1 2005”. Motion carried.*

**6. Future Fisheries Special Drought Mitigation Funding Projects – Final. Chris Hunter, FWP Fisheries Division Administrator,** explained that over the last five or six years, in addition to the standard future fisheries project proposals, FWP has offered the public an opportunity to submit future fisheries project applications specific to drought mitigation. This funding is generally announced on short notice. There are normally a limited amount of projects submitted, however, this funding cycle generated no applications. No action necessary.

**7. Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Reservoir Commercial Fishing Regulations – Final. Ken McDonald, FWP Fisheries Division Fish Management Bureau Chief,** said final action would allow commercial fishing by Richard Greene on these two bodies of water. Public comment over the last month generated five comments associated with bow hunting and bird watching activities near Lake Helena. As commercial fishing is not allowed on weekends, there will be little impact on these activities.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the regulations for a commercial fishing operation on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Reservoir for 2005. Motion carried.*

**8. Delegation of Authority to Close Waters Affected by Drought – Final. Ken McDonald, FWP Fisheries Division Fish Management Bureau Chief,** said for the last four years the Commission has delegated authority to the Director and the District Commissioner to close waters to fishing due to drought conditions. The need to close waters to fishing occurs quickly and needs immediate action. With more drought conditions anticipated again this year, Fisheries Division requests continuation of this policy. This policy is on the FWP website and will be publicized through press releases.

When drought conditions call for closing water to fishing, the Director and the District Commissioner in whose area the affected waters are located, will be authorized to close said water. If that Commissioner is unavailable, the Chairman or an alternate Commissioner can authorize closure along with the Director. If delegation of authority is not approved, the full Commission will need to act on each individual closure.

*Action: Brenden moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the delegation of authority to the Director and the District Commissioner to close waters to fishing in compliance with the Drought Closure Policy. Motion carried.*

**9. Lower Flathead Fishing Access Acquisition – Informational. Chris Hunter, FWP Fisheries Division Administrator,** said the Flathead River has become a good northern pike and smallmouth bass fishery, but access is limited. The 68-mile stretch of river that runs through the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed to motorboats most of the year, and motors are restricted to 15 horsepower the rest of the year. The lower four-mile stretch of river that is off-reservation is where the majority of use occurs. The private property owners along this stretch, the Howes, have allowed access to the river until two years ago when they decided to build a house on the site. Because this river is such a good fishery, FWP has been seeking a replacement access site. Access to this stretch of river is poor due to difficult conditions at the Flathead and Clark Fork confluence.

The landowners recently placed the site on the market to sell. FWP approached them to see if they would be willing to negotiate a sale, which they were. They wanted a buy-sell agreement by last Friday, but have agreed to wait until Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> to allow the Commission the opportunity to discuss the matter.

The site is a little over two acres. The landowners are asking \$250,000, however the Department will not pay over appraisal price. Hunter noted that the Department of Transportation is looking at possibly moving the highway through this section of land, and he added that FWP is checking into that. Workman asked who does the negotiations, to which Hagener replied that all negotiations are handled by the FWP Regional Office and by a staff member from the FWP Lands Unit. Hunter added that biologists participate from time to time as well.

Workman said he had looked at the site, and the impact of Department of Transportation's (DOT) project would be crucial to this project – there may not be anything to buy when they are done. He said the development of a walking easement for hunting on the private ground across the river adjoining the reservation would create a dual purpose.

Mulligan asked what the timeframes are, and asked if DOT would pay the same price that FWP paid if they take it over. Colton asked if DOT would remove everything from the site. Hunter said that Darlene Edge, FWP Land Agent, will be talking with DOT to get answers to those kinds of questions. FWP is very aware of the situation with DOT, but did not want to pour a lot of time and work into this project prior to receiving Commission approval. Workman asked about liability issues, such as when there is a limited field of vision for people pulling onto the highway from an access site. He said sight is limited in this case. Hagener said yes, FWP is held liable for those types of issues, and that would be addressed should this acquisition be pursued. Hunter added that the highway construction might improve the situation.

Hunter said numerous caveats would be written into this acquisition, and Hagener added that approval by the State Land Board is required on any purchases over \$100,000.

*Action: Workman moved and Colton seconded the motion that the agency proceed with negotiations with the Howe's to acquire this fishing access site on the Lower Flathead River. Motion carried.*

**10. Habitat Montana Recognition Presentations.** FWP Director Jeff Hagener presented Stan Meyer, former FWP Commission Chair, and Paul Sihler, Five Valleys Land Trust, with framed prints of the "Old Man of the Hills" in appreciation of their support and the efforts they have expended toward the success of FWP's Habitat Montana Program. Hagener said Meyer and Sihler were the main thrust in moving forward with the Habitat Montana program. FWP appreciates all of the efforts they have put forth, and expects that they will continue to remain vigilant.

Habitat Montana has been in place for a number of years with a sunset attached. This year it was proposed to remove that sunset. Stan Meyer, who had an interest in Habitat Montana, was asked for assistance on how to approach reauthorization without a sunset clause. Meyer embraced the challenge, enlisted others, and drafted a plan. Governor Schweitzer just signed HB79, which is the reauthorization of Habitat Montana.

Sihler said this Habitat Montana was successful due to cooperation between the landowners and the coalition. Sportsmen supported this program, as did the Farm Bureau and outfitters who testified in favor of the program. He commended FWP for their work.

Meyer said he had asked cooperators how it was working four and eight years later. He called seven ranch families who said they were excited about the program, and were working well with FWP. They reported that rest rotation works, wildlife is thriving, weaning weights are greater, and those providing access have been enjoying hunter contacts.

**11. 2005 Moose, Sheep and Goat Quotas – Tentative.** Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator, introduced Jeff Herbert, FWP Wildlife Division Assistant Administrator, and Gary Hammond, FWP Wildlife Management Bureau Chief, who presented the proposals to the Moose, Sheep, and Goat quotas for 2005.

## **MOOSE**

### **Region 1**

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Workman moved Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 1 Moose quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

### **Region 2**

Two changes to the 2004 quotas – Reductions in HD214-00 and HD214-10

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 2 Moose quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

### **Region 3**

Eleven changes to the 2004 quotas – Reductions in HDs 300-10, 301-10, 301-20, 323-00, 323-10, 324-00, 324-10, 324-20, 327-00, 327-10, and 327-20

*Action: Mulligan moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 3 Moose quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

### **Region 4**

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Workman moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 4 Moose quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

### **Region 5**

Five changes to the 2004 quotas – Reductions in HDs 514-10, 514-12, 514-20, 514-21, and 515-20

Colton asked for reasoning behind the decision for the reductions. **Ray Mule', FWP Region 5 Wildlife Manager**, explained that the surveys are indicating fewer animals. HD514 is a large district that is divided into subunits. In 1998, 72 moose were counted, and in 2005 only 16 moose were counted. The number of animals has steadily been decreasing. Hunters report that they don't see many moose. Where there is good access, there are fewer moose.

Colton asked the Region to publicize these decreases in sportsmen's stores and in newspapers, and make sure to include the rationale. Mule' assured the Commission that would be done, and he noted that there will also be a public comment period announcing the tentative proposals. Hammond said there will be press releases going out this afternoon after this meeting.

*Action: Colton moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 5 Moose quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

## **BIGHORN SHEEP**

### **Region 1**

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Workman moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 1 Bighorn Sheep quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 2

One change to the 2004 quotas – Reductions in HD270-30

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 2 Bighorn Sheep quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 3

One change to the 2004 quotas – Increase in HD340-00

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the Region 3 Bighorn Sheep quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 4

Three changes to the 2004 quotas – Increases in HDs 422-30, 423-30, 424-30

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the Region 4 Bighorn Sheep quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 5

One change to the 2004 quotas – Increase in HD503-10

*Action: Colton moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the Region 5 Bighorn Sheep quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 6

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Brenden moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the Region 6 Bighorn Sheep quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

**MOUNTAIN GOAT**

Region 1

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Workman moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 1 Mountain Goat quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 2

One change to the 2004 quotas – Reduction in HD222-00

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 2 Mountain Goat quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 3

Two changes to the 2004 quotas – Reduction in HD323-00 and Increase in 329-00

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the Region 3 Mountain Goat quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 4

One change to the 2004 quotas – Reduction in HD447-00

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 4 Mountain Goat quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 5

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Colton moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 5 Mountain Goat quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

**12. 2005 Lion Quotas – Tentative.**

**MOUNTAIN LIONS**

Region 1

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Workman moved and Colton seconded the motion to approve the Region 1 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 2

Four changes to the 2004 quotas – Reductions in HDs 212/215 & 213/214 and Increases in HDs 250 & 270

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 2 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Herbert said as a result of legislation, the lion research budget was cut to zero. He said FWP was able to reinsert only one additional field season, so the question is how to wrap up the last field season. Should the current quota remain in place or should it be reduced? A high quota would eat into the field season. Childress recommended leaving quota as is, but put a note in the cover letter so people can have an opportunity to comment. It will be an informational item on the cover letter.

Region 3

Seven changes to the 2004 quotas – Reductions in HDs 320/333, 323/327, 312/393, 370/380, 310/362, 313/316 and an Increase in HD314.

These changes are a reflection of meetings with houndsmen in Region 3.

**Kurt Alt, FWP Region 3 Wildlife Manager**, said HDs 322, 326 and 330 were also recommended for reduction. He said the recommendation was to reduce the female subquota to 1, but retain the total as it is, for consistency, to see what the response is.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 3 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department, including reducing the female subquota to 1 in HDs 322, 326 and 330, and keeping the total at 2. Motion carried.*

Region 4

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Mulligan moved and Colton seconded the motion to approve the Region 4 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 5

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Colton moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Region 5 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*



Region 6

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Brenden moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 6 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Region 7

No changes to the 2004 quotas

*Action: Brenden moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve the Region 7 Mountain Lion quotas as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

Don Clark, Libby, said HB142 has worked effectively to limit overkill in Region 1. Loopholes have been found by houndsmen, and appropriate action by the Commission could make changes that would eliminate them. The two houndsmen's organizations he is affiliated with want non-resident houndsmen to be required to obtain permits, or go with an outfitter to hunt lions. People are using predator calls to get cats that are not brought in until 10 days later when it cannot be proved they used predator calls. Also, if hounds are brought to Montana, they feel there must be a hound handler permit or the hunter must go with an outfitter.

**13. 2006 Moose, Sheep, Deer, Elk, and Goat Auction Rules – Tentative.** Jeff Herbert, FWP Wildlife Division Assistant Administrator, said the rules by which auctions/lotteries are conducted are brought before the Commission annually for approval. One moose, sheep, deer, and elk tag is made available for wildlife conservation organizations to sell by means of an auction or lottery as a fund raising tool. Mountain goats have recently been added to the list, however the monies received go to the Block Management Program. The Commission selects the successful organizations after review of their applications. Moose, sheep, and goat tags are for auction only, while deer and elk tags can be auctioned or sold by lottery. Very little public comment has been received in the past, but as part of the process it will once again be presented for comment. Bids for these licenses are due from conservation organizations by mid-July. The Commission awards the licenses to in September.

Last year an Administrative Rule was developed to eliminate the need to address the auction/lottery rules annually. When the final decision was made, the Commission elected to continue with the annual rule. Brenden said the annual rule provides more flexibility, and it does not take that much time to make the decision. He added that modifications are more difficult to make to an Administrative Rule.

*Action: Brenden moved and Workman seconded the motion to retain the annual rule process and to go out for public comment.*

*Discussion on Motion:* Mulligan said he likes the idea of an Administrative Rule, especially since nothing has changed in the last six years. Herbert said it is not a lengthy process, however it requires more time when modifying rules.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**14. Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area–Jamison Land–Endorsement.** **Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator**, said this proposed acquisition is for twenty-five acres within the Garrity Mountain WMA near Anaconda. The 9000-acre WMA was acquired with help from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Natural Resource Damage using Clark Fork settlement funds. This acquisition is for two mining claims held by the Jamisons, who now wish to sell the property. If approved, the project will go through MEPA process, a public hearing will take place, and the EA will be put out for public comment. The Department needs Commission approval to proceed with the acquisition process. The Jamisons request the sale be completed by August. **Deb Dils, FWP Lands Section Supervisor**, said the asking price is \$50,000; negotiations will commence.

Brenden asked what the situation would be should a national emergency occur, and minerals were found in these mines. Childress said Jamisons still hold the mineral rights, so FWP would have to work out an access agreement.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the pursuit of the 25-acre land acquisition within the Garrity Mountain WMA by August 1, 2005. Motion carried.*

**15. Land Projects – Informational.** **Glenn Erickson, FWP Field Services Division Administrator**, explained the process and the role the Commissioners play in land projects. Erickson discussed the projects that have been approved as tentative recommendations and are expected to be brought back before the Commission this next year for final approval (list included in April meeting file – provided to Commissioners prior to meeting). Erickson invited the Commissioners to tour any of the projects they may be interested in.

#### **Abbreviated Steps to Land Acquisitions**

Projects are developed in the regions

FAS and wildlife project acquisitions developed the same way, based on established guidelines

Usually by biologist or a staff member - usually landowner approaching them.

Give information to appropriate FWP Division – Wildlife, Fisheries etc

Division and Region evaluates project utilizing established criteria

Project briefing taken to Commission

Commission decides if its worth pursuing – “thumbs up”

Negotiations either go forward or terminate

Project given to FWP Land Section – land agent assigned - works with Legal Unit and Regions

Valuation determined by market analysis or appraisal

Prepare purchase agreements and other paperwork

Regional Supervisor and Lands Section are responsible to answer questions etc.

EA and management plans are developed

Regions hold public meetings

Regional supervisor issues Decision Notice

Project brought to Commission for final decision

Project can be approved, disapproved, or delayed pending further information

Projects over 100 acres or \$100,000 in value go to the State Land Board for approval following

FWP Commission approval

The State Land Board meets monthly – FWP Commissioners are welcome to attend meetings

Legal Unit and Lands Section prepare closing documents

**16. Legislative Update.** FWP Director Hagener said the legislature is wrapping up, possibly as early as next Wednesday. Most bills impacting FWP are done, except for the primary budget bills – HB2 and HB5. Hagener briefed the Commission on the bills FWP followed throughout the Session. Some survived several hurdles while others did not. To name a few, HB 79 - Habitat Montana - passed. SB77 - Removal of the Block Management sunset – passed. The “supertag” to provide additional funding for Block Management was approved. The legislature did not like the incremental fee increase proposal (HB176) - they did not endorse or accept it. HB172 – the one-time fee increase – has passed both the House and the Senate. HB214 regarding non-resident youth is still alive.

Another bill that FWP was heavily involved in was SB503, which involved the Teton Spring Creek Game Preserve. FWP was sued for allowing a late season hunt there last year since archery hunting did not meet the needs. Legislators asked about removing the legislative portion connected to the preserve status. Most of the landowners support removing the designation of “preserve”. **Martha Williams, FWP Legal Counsel**, said FWP is still in litigation over this, but this legislation will help.

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Workman asked how to go about lowering the age for kids to hunt. Hagener said it has been attempted before and, he stated, very few states allow younger age limits for big game hunting due to safety issues. Hagener said next January is when FWP begins the process of identifying possible legislative changes. Hagener said FWP prefers to provide any proposed changes to its constituents early, before taking them to legislation. Mulligan requested that Thomas Baumeister assemble statistics on ages, safety issues, etc. for Commission review.

**17. Viewing of “Owning Eden” Video.** Ron Aasheim, FWP Conservation Education Administrator, showed the 12-minute video FWP made in conjunction with the Montana Stock Growers Association. *Owning Eden* is an attempt to help new landowners, particularly those new to Montana, understand the big picture of life in rural Montana. The video is aimed at encouraging new landowners to be vigilant about the merits of maintaining the long-standing values and culture and ecology of Montana.

Aasheim said the video is targeted toward farm and ranch realtors who will show it to people purchasing property in Montana. The Montana Stock Growers Association is spreading the word to new landowners as well. Major Montana newspapers ran articles on *Owning Eden*, drawing attention to it. The videos are free to anyone who wants one.

**18. Public Opportunity to Address Issues Not Discussed at this Meeting.** No comments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

